

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
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MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
April 6, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was called to order by Chair Dr. Allan Boodnick, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held inside the Community Center at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, 4100 South La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90056.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present:

Julie Alvis, Chair Allan Boodnick, Lloyd Dixon, Russ Guiney, Vice Chair Allan Kingston, Craig Sap, Sara Amir, Sara Amir, and Marina Voskanian. Robert Jones and Starlett Quarles arrived after roll.

Members Absent:

Karen Finn, Bobbie Parks, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Joan Cardellino, Barbara Romero, Patricia O'Toole, and Patrick Reynolds.

Staff Present:

David McNeill, Gail Krippner, Gloria Dangerfield, and Rosana Miramontes.

III. Executive Officer Report – BHC Staff Representatives

Mr. McNeill stated updates on capital outlay projects would be given by Gail Krippner. Ms. Krippner reported on the following projects: 1) LANI Entrance Enhancement Project. Decorative fencing fabrication continues with the process of getting the right graffiti coating underway; 2) DTSC Monitoring. The department has provided a soil management plan, which will be included in the Eastern Ridge project bidding process and addendum to the EIR; 3) The Milton Street project. 50% construction documents have been received and MRCA is on schedule to have complete CD's by late June; 4) Eastern Ridgeline. The project has 100% construction documents and has the second addendum to the EIR completed; 5) Norman O. Houston Park Improvements. The City of Los Angeles is having a kick-off meeting the end of April for the project; 6) Baldwin Hills Parklands Habitat Restoration Program. An Earth Day Volunteer event will be held on Sunday, April 22 at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area and members from three assembly districts will be present.

Mr. McNeill went over the updates for the expenditures summary sheet. 1) There are four months remaining in the current fiscal year from this report date and the support funds currently have a balance of \$91,000; the overhead for this fund averages about \$15,000 per month; 2) PCA 10005, Prop 40 support. This fund usually ends with a small balance that can be reverted for future use; 3) PCA 10009, Prop 84 support. This fund is for an open position that we are working with personnel to re-advertise and fill; 4) Capital Outlay/bond funds. There are twenty-six million dollars in appropriations available for BHC projects.

Mr. McNeill reported he's attached a series of flyers to his report that shows all activities the BHC has been involved in, including a presentation made to the Appraisers and Assessors of Los Angeles County and Orange County. Representatives from the Los Angeles County appraisers made an offer to assist with some of the Conservancy's future appraisals and reviews. There will be a 47th, 51st and 53rd Assembly District Watershed Event at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area on April 22, together with Earth Day activities. Representatives from the offices of Holly Mitchell, Betsy Butler, and Steven Bradford will be present. Jim Lamm (one of the co-chairs for the 47th Assembly district environmental committee) suggested bringing the three assembly districts together to unify the vision for the watershed for one big project. The event will be hosted by Los Angeles County Parks on April 18, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

III. Executive Officer Report (cont'd)

California Greenways and Trails Conference will have a pre-conference bike ride starting from the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook to Ballona Creek and out to the coastal wetlands in Playa del Rey, staff and agency partners from Coastal Conservancy, MRCA, CORBA's Mountain Bike Unit and BHRCA will be leading the Park to Playa alignment tour.. On April 13, Assemblymember Holly Mitchell will hold a screening of "Bag It." The screening will be held at West Los Angeles College from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes (January and February) – Dr. Allan Boodnick, Chair

The Chair called for the motion to approve January and February meeting minutes. Member Jones made the motion to approve; all ayes, motion carries.

V. Consideration of a Resolution Approving the Revised BHC Prop 40 Local Assistance Grant Program and Procedures – David McNeill, Executive Officer

Mr. McNeill reported the procedures were updated based upon the streamline version used for Prop 84. Member Alvis questioned Attachment B, Item 3.1 (contents of applications) in regards to the section dealing with advances. She proposed adding a sentence to precede the one that says, "if an applicant requested advance funds...." and replace it with "under rare occasions, the Conservancy may approve requests for advance funds." She also asked for clarification of the next sentence which says "written justification for consideration by the Conservancy." Mr. McNeill responded the decision on justification would be made internally by staff and the ad hoc committee. Also, on the item under contents of application, she felt two things should be included; 1) the applicant should include or demonstrate their capacity to carry out the work; and 2) where matching funds are required in the procedures, nothing indicates if the applicant needs to include information about their other source of funds for the process. Mr. McNeill noted her changes to the procedures.

Member Dixon asked what the advance funds were typically used. Mr. McNeill explained that they were for special circumstances; i.e., to pay a subcontractor, etc. Member Kingston made the motion to approve the resolution with the recommended changes to the attachment. All ayes, motion carries.

VI. Consideration of a Resolution Rescinding Resolution 06-08 and Resolution 10-02 Which Authorized a Grant of Up To \$2 Million in Proposition 40 Funds to the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority for Acquisition of the 6000 Jefferson Blvd. Property and Amended the Project Location – David McNeill, Executive Officer

Mr. McNeill explained the resolution was for the Ohr Elyhu school site that was amended previously, since it started as the 6000 Jefferson Site. Member Kingston moved that the resolutions; all ayes, motion carries.

VII. Ad Hoc Committees -

Board Development Update – Russ Guiney, Committee Chair. The Chair reported he was very pleased about the progress being made in filling vacant board positions and the committee has been in touch with the Governor's appointment secretary. Member Guiney added they are waiting to hear from the secretary to finalize the vacant positions and that once the full board is in place, having a retreat, training or bringing a consultant on board for development would be the next priority. The Chair asked if any members knew of anyone who would be interested in being a board member, to please refer them. Member Guiney added they particularly need someone from the Los Angeles area; in general, Baldwin Hills, and Ladera Heights. In addition, their committee also discussed having a designee appointed for the County Supervisor, extending board members' tenure from two years to four years, amending the duties and responsibility of the agency's statute to require members attend at least 50% of the meetings in the calendar year.

Fundraising Update – Starlett Quarles, Committee Chair. Member Quarles reported that their committee has been diligently trying to reach Ken Bentley (Nestle) and will try to connect with him next week.

VIII. Public Comment

Carl Morgan, representative for the Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council and member of the Baldwin Hills Estate Homeowners Association, asked for status of trails that could possibly be planned in the Los Angeles City side of La Brea between Stocker and Jim Gilliam Park. Mr. McNeill responded that it's being considered and discussions with non-profit agencies to perform long-term maintenance remain an unresolved issue at this time.

Sylvia Jones, Executive Director for the Universal Multi-Cultural Foundation, announced that on Saturday, June 2, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., they will have a Senior Fun Day in Leimert Park and everyone was welcome to come. You can e-mail her at seniorfunday@yahoo.com

IX. Board Member Announcements or Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Member Jones wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Member Guiney announced last week he had the opportunity to represent the County of Los Angeles at the national Parks and Recreation Legislative Forum in Washington, D.C. He met with one of Congresswoman Karen Bass' staff and a number of other congressional leaders. Of importance this year is the Land and Water Conservation Fund (funded by the royalties the Federal Government receives from off-shore drilling) that was set up in the 60's to help with preservation of open space land. Two parts to the fund; federal side and state side. Federal side goes to the Department of Interior and the state side traditionally goes to states; other agencies may also qualify and he believes the Conservancy can apply, as the grants are used for projects such as acquisition or development of parkland and open space. This year, the Department of Interior is trying to get a portion of the state side money to do a federal grant program, which would reduce the amount of money available to states and would put it at a federal level.

Another bill in the news that week was the Federal Transportation Bill. Senator Barbara Boxer and a republican senator put together a bi-partisan bill to advance the transportation bill. A portion of it would go to trails and non-vehicular public transportation. Los Angeles County Parks is interested in the trails portion, which is a small percent. The Senate was able to put together a bill that would give 1% to trails but when it got to the house, they were unable to have it approved; and it was kicked back to the senate with a 90 day extension; they will be following the results along with their legislative advocates.

Member Voskanian thinks that portion from the bill given to the state would be a good source of fund for some real property acquisitions in the Baldwin Hills.

The Chair piggy-backed on Member Jones' wishes for a Good Easter and wished the same to everyone, along with wishes for a Happy Passover.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business brought before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Approved:

Dr. Allan Boodnick
Chairman